

D R A F T

MINUTES OF OFFICERS WORKSHOP OF THE MISQUAMICUT FIRE DISTRICT

October 15, 2014

1. Call to Order

The Officers' Meeting of the Misquamicut Fire District was called to order by the Moderator, Michelle Vacca, at 4:32 p.m. on October 15, 2014.

2. Roll Call

Members present were: Marilyn Bellesheim, Mary Delisio, Shannon Earle, Russell Ryan, Michelle Vacca and Dianne Vumback. John Toscano, Solicitor, was also present. William Sisco and Leone D'Onofrio were absent.

3. Fire Chief's Residency

Discussion regarding Fire Chief's residency within the boundaries of the MFD in accordance with charter requirements, voting status and

voting address. It was reported that the Fire Chief is no longer living in the Misquamicut Fire District. The Solicitor states that the Board should know that the Solicitor and Moderator had a meeting with the Fire Chief and it was told to us you moved and had a new residence. The Fire Chief claims to have had a personal, life changing situation requiring him to move from 65 Shore Road and he now resides at 164 Shore Road. He also claims that a copy of lease contract and vehicle records all reflect current address. Question over not owning property – or have voting rights was brought up. Shannon explains it takes three weeks in order to officially become registered to vote. Solicitor explains he will not be registered with the Board of Canvassers in time for the election. Moderator explains that this is a violation of the MFD Charter. Moderator states she is disappointed that the Fire Chief didn't follow through with making proper changes immediately when he promised he would, as all of this could have been avoided. Fire Chief will follow up first thing tomorrow morning. The Moderator let the Fire Chief know he put the district at risk.

The Moderator mentions disgruntled property owners over the fact that the Fire Chief's availability was "not to their liking". This was also discussed during the meeting the Solicitor, Moderator and the Fire Chief had. Discussion over the Fire Chief needing to be available for the taxpayers took place. Per the Fire Chief, when it comes to inspection and reviewing building plans, it is the impression of taxpayers that we wait around for phone calls. It cannot be expected that we are available immediately. Fire Chief explains he has

adjusted his schedule to meet with people – people need to understand he does not have the luxury and freedom to come and go as he pleases. Solicitor asks if there is a set schedule with an assigned person to be available from 8-5 to protect the district. Fire Chief is available 24/7 – and in person after 5 Monday through Sunday. Suggestion made that certain times and certain days for inspections be posted.

Moderator also mentioned the “illegal meetings” of the Fire Department. She mentions the meeting from Tuesday will have complaints and that the district will be fined. The Fire Chief claims to have reached out to the SOS last week and was advised by the SOS that we have been out of compliance since 2004. The Clerk reminded the Fire Chief that he was made aware of the Fire Department being out of compliance by the Moderator in June and July. In August the Fire Chief indicated in the meeting that he was now in compliance. The Moderator talked about being sure to have it all set for September. The Moderator also told him NOT to have an October meeting until he is in compliance on SOS, yet he had the meeting.

The Solicitor requests one of two things: either the Department hires their own counsel and be guided by that lawyer or contact Michelle who will direct questions to him.. Questions arose whether the meeting on Tuesday of the Fire Department was legal. The Solicitor states “The law is that you post in two locations – if you didn’t post in two locations – do you think it was a legal meeting?”

4. Access to Public Records Act (APRA)

Update on the certification of the Clerk, Moderator and the Solicitor of the mandatory 3 hour training. John Toscano explains compliance with the open meeting law. There are very few things we have not done, however, labeling on the agenda must change – update language. Old business is now unfinished business, for example.

We can have workshops, get together, but no voting. Next month will be a regular meeting instead of a workshop. Today we will adopt policies and procedures. We will post permanently on the front door of the fire station house our updated policy on requesting information on our open meetings. When we talk about things that are not finished today – we have a referral to the next meeting (and then it becomes an agenda item).

Discussion over the need to stay on topic and stop side bar conversations.

Access to the Public Records Act (APRA). Moderator refers to the law.

Russ Ryan makes a motion and is seconded by Mary Delisio to amend the workshop agenda. Motion passes – all in favor.

(see attached Policies and Procedures)

Russ Ryan makes a motion and is seconded by Mary Delisio to accept and adopt the policies and procedures for obtaining public records from the MFD. Motion passes – all in favor.

Russ Ryan makes a motion and Mary Delisio seconds to amend the workshop agenda to accept the audit for the Misquamicut Fire District and the Misquamicut Fire Department. Motion passes – all in favor.

Marilyn Bellesheim makes a motion and Mary Delisio seconds to accept the auditor's report for the year ending 2014 for the Misquamicut Fire District and the Misquamicut Fire Department per our Treasurer.

Discussion:

Russ Ryan is concerned about accepting this without William Sisco, Treasurer, being here to discuss.

Motion passes – Roll Call:

Marilyn Bellesheim – yes

Mary Delisio – yes

Shannon Earle – no

Russ Ryan – no

Dianne Vumback – yes

Michelle Vacca – yes

5. Agenda Referrals

The following is referred to as New Business and will be voted on at the next officers meeting scheduled for November 8, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

- Minutes of September 17, 2014**
- National Grid Energy Survey**
- Discussion of fire apparatus**
- Quotes and proposal discussion for new heating system, removal of the old oil tank and pricing of fuel.**
- Discussion of arrearages**
- Acceptance of workshop minutes of October 15, 2014.**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 p.m. all were in favor. The next scheduled board meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dianne Vumback
Clerk**